DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 292 080 CS 009 086

TITLE Summertime Favorites.
INSTITUTION National Endowment for the Humanities (NFAH), Washington, D.C.
PUB DATE 2 May 88
NOTE 15p.
AVAILABLE FROM Office of Publications and Public Affairs, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Room 406, Washington, DC 20506 (single copies free).
PUB TYPE Reference Materials - Bibliographies (131)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Adolescent Literature; *Childrens Literature; Elementary Secondary Education; Reading Aloud to Others; *Reading Materials; Reading Material Selection; *Recreational Reading; Supplementary Reading Materials
IDENTIFIERS *Classics (Literature); Leisure Activities; National Endowment for the Humanities

ABSTRACT

Compiled from the reading lists of 60 exemplary schools, this "summertime" reading list provides titles of tried-and-true works published in or before 1960 which appeared on at least five of the school reading lists. Selections are divided according to grade level. The list offers over 100 book or series of titles recommended for kindergarten through grade 6, including Brunhoff's "The Story of Babar," Montgomery's "Anne of Green Gables," and Williams' "The Velveteen Rabbit." Starred titles indicate books recommended for kindergarten through third grade, either for reading by children or for reading to them. The approximately 100 selections for grades 7 and 8 include Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451," Hersey's "Hiroshima," and Wharton's "Ethan Frome." Included in the 186 titles for grades 9 through 12 are Beckett's "Waiting for Godot," Machiavelli's "The Prince," and Wright's "Native Son." (MM)

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SUMMERTIME FAVORITES

compiled by the

National Endowment for the Humanities

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SOURCE: The National Endowment for the Humanities solicited supplemental reading lists from public and private schools in every state. Many of the schools had been chosen by the U.S. Department of Education as exemplary schools; others were known to have strong humanities programs. Sixty of the extracurricular lists that NEH received were used to compile this list. The list includes all titles published in 1960 or before that appeared on at least five of those reading lists. The only exception is in the early grades: Because many schools did not submit suggested readings for these grades, some titles that were mentioned fewer than five times have been added to the K-3 category.

For release: May 2, 1988

CS007086

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"Summertime Favorites"
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Oh for a book and a shady nook,
Either in door or out;
With the green leaves whispering overhead,
Or the street cries all about.
Where I may read all at my ease,
Both of the new and the old;
For a jolly good book whereon to look,
Is better to me than gold.

--John Wilson

A book is like a garden carried in the pocket.

--Chinese Proverb

I cannot live without books.

--Thomas Jefferson

Those books purified my soul, cleansing it of the superficial layer of impressions produced by [my] bitter, miserable reality. I came to appreciate what good books really were and realized how much I needed them and they gradually gave me a stoical confidence in myself: I was not alone in this world and I would not perish!

--Maxim Gorky

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INTRODUCTION

"From a child...all the little money that came into my hands was ever laid out on books," Benjamin Franklin wrote. The roster of illustrious Americans who valued reading in their youth has a multitude of other impressive entries--names like Abraham Lincoln, Louisa May Alcott, and James Baldwin.

Good schools, knowing the worlds that books can open up, encourage extracurricular reading, and we at the National Endowment for the Humanities have collected reading lists from dozens of these schools. Noticing how often books that other generations have enjoyed appear on these lists, we decided to make this compilation of tried-and-true titles. Published in 1960 or before, the works herein have been favorites of at least one previous generation. In many cases, they have delighted several generations of readers.

Anne Gwaltney of the NEH staff undertook the work of tabulating and cross-checking reading lists from sixty schools, and I would like to recognize her efforts. I would also like to thank Marianne Carus, editor-in-chief of Cricket; Anita Moss of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte; and Jean Osborn of the Center for the Study of Reading, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. They were kind enough to review the list and make recommendations about appropriate age levels.

All those involved in this project recognize that there are many fine contemporary books for young people. There are also excellent older books that appeared too infrequently on the reading lists collected to be included here: Kate Douglas Wiggin's Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm, for example; Dylan Thomas's A Child's Christmas in Wales; Frederick Douglass's Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass.

Although a few memorable works may be missing, this compilation will nevertheless bring hours of pleasure and enlightenment. With school vacation just around the corner, we call this list "Summertime Favorites." But most of these books are not just for a season. They are for a lifetime.

Lynne V. Cheney
Chairman

"Summertime Favorites"
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Kindergarten through Grade 6

Adamson, Joy
Born Free

Aesop
*Fables**

Alcott, Louisa May
Little Women

Andersen, Hans Christian
Fairy tales

Atwater, Richard and Florence
*Mr. Popper's Penguins**

Bailey, Carolyn Sherwin
Miss Hickory

Barrie, J.M.
Peter Pan

Baum, L. Frank
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Bemelmans, Ludwig
*Madeline series**

Bond, Michael
A Bear Called Paddington

Boston, L.M.
The Children of Green Knowe

Brink, Carol Ryrie
Caddie Woodlawn

Brown, Margaret Wise
*Goodnight, Moon**

Brunhoff, Jean de
*The Story of Babar**

Burnett, Frances Hodgson
The Secret Garden

Burton, Virginia Lee
*Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel**

Butterworth, Oliver
The Enormous Egg

Clark, Ann Nolan
Secret of the Andes

Cleary, Beverly
Henry Huggins series

Coatsworth, Elizabeth
The Cat Who Went to Heaven

Dalgliesh, Alice
*The Bears on Hemlock Mountain**
*The Courage of Sarah Noble**

De Angeli, Marguerite
The Door in the Wall

De Jong, Meindert
The House of Sixty Fathers
The Wheel on the School

Dodge, Mary Mapes
Hans Brinker, or the Silver Skates

Du Bois, William Pene
The Twenty-One Balloons

Edmonds, Walter D.
The Matchlock Gun

Estes, Eleanor
Ginger Pye
Moffats series

Farley, Walter
The Black Stallion

Field, Rachel
Hitty, Her First Hundred Years

Fritz, Jean
The Cabin Faced West

Gilbreth, Frank B. and
Ernestine G. Carey
Cheaper by the Dozen

* Recommended as early as K-3, either for reading by children or for reading to them.

"Summertime Favorites"
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Kindergarten through Grade 6
(continued)

Gipson, Fred
Old Yeller

Godden, Rumer
The Mousewife*

Grahame, Kenneth
The Reluctant Dragon*
The Wind in the Willows

Gray, Elizabeth Janet
Adam of the Road

Grimm, Jacob and Wilhelm
Grimm's Fairy Tales

Hawes, Charles
The Dark Frigate

Haywood, Carolyn
Betsy series*

Henry, Marguerite
King of the Wind
Misty of Chincoteague

Keith, Harold
Rifles for Watie

Kelly, Eric
The Trumpeter of Krakow

Kipling, Rudyard
Captains Courageous
Just So Stories for Little Children*
The Jungle Book

Kjelgaard, Jim
Big Red

Knight, Eric
Lassie Come Home

Krumgold, Joseph
...and Now Miguel
Onion John

LaFarge, Oliver
Laughing Boy

Lamb, Charles and Mary
Tales from Shakespear

Latham, Jean Lee
Carry on, Mr. Bowditch

Lawson, Robert
Ben & Me
Rabbit Hill

Leaf, Munro
The Story of Ferdinand*

Lear, Edward
Book of Nonsense*

Lenski, Lois
Strawberry Girl

Lewis, C.S.
Chronicles of Narnia series

Lindgren, Astrid
Pippi Longstocking series

Lofting, Hugh
Doctor Doolittle series

London, Jack
The Call of the Wild
White Fang

MacDonald, Betty
Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle*

MacGregor, Ellen
Miss Pickerell series

McCloskey, Robert
Blueberries for Sal*
Homer Price
Make Way for Ducklings*

McSwigan, Marie
Snow Treasure

* Recommended as early as K-3, either for reading by children or for reading to them.

"Summertime Favorites"
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Kindergarten through Grade 6
(continued)

Meigs, Cornelia
Invincible Louisa

Milne, A.A.
*The House at Pooh Corner**
*Now We Are Six**
*When We Were Very Young**
*Winnie-the-Pooh**

Minarik, Else Holmelund
Little Bear

Montgomery, L.M.
Anne of Green Gables

Mukerji, Dhan Ghopal
Gay-Neck, the Story of a Pigeon

Norton, Mary
The Borrowers series

O'Hara, Mary
My Friend Flicka

Pearce, Philippa
Tom's Midnight Garden

Perrault, Charles
*Cinderella**

Potter, Beatrix
*The Tale of Peter Rabbit**

Pyle, Howard
The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood

Rey, H.A.
Curious George series*

Richter, Conrad
The Light in the Forest

Selden, George
*The Cricket in Times Square**

Seuss, Dr.
*The Cat in the Hat**

Sewell, Anna
Black Beauty

Sorenson, Virginia
Miracles on Maple Hill

Speare, Elizabeth George
The Witch of Blackbird Pond

Sperry, Armstrong
Call It Courage

Spyri, Johanna
Heidi

Steinbeck, John
The Red Pony

Stevenson, Robert Louis
*A Child's Garden of Verses**
Kidnapped
Treasure Island

Travers, Pamela L.
Mary Poppins series

Van Loon, Hendrik
The Story of Mankind

White, E.B.
Charlotte's Web
Stuart Little

Wilder, Laura Ingalls
Little House series

Williams, Margery
*The Velveteen Rabbit**

Wyss, Johann
Swiss Family Robinson

Zion, Gene
*Harry the Dirty Dog**

* Recommended as early as K-3, either for reading by children or for reading to them.

"Summertime Favorites"
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Grades 7 and 8

Alcott, Louisa May
Little Men

Bagnold, Enid
National Velvet

Blackmore, Richard D.
Lorna Doone

Boulle, Pierre
The Bridge over the River Kwai

Bradbury, Ray
Dandelion Wine
Fahrenheit 451
The Illustrated Man
Martian Chronicles

Buchan, John
The Thirty-Nine Steps

Bunyan, John
The Pilgrim's Progress

Carroll, Lewis
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
Through the Looking Glass

Clark, Walter
The Ox-Bow Incident

Cooper, James Fenimore
The Deerslayer
The Last of the Mohicans

Curie, Eve
Madame Curie: A Biography

Dana, Richard Henry
Two Years before the Mast

Day, Clarence
Life with Father

Defoe, Daniel
Robinson Crusoe

Dickens, Charles
A Christmas Carol

Douglas, Lloyd C.
The Robe

Doyle, Arthur Conan
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes

Dumas, Alexander
The Count of Monte Cristo
The Three Musketeers

Du Maurier, Daphne
Rebecca

Edmonds, Walter D.
Drums along the Mohawk

Ferber, Edna
Cimarron

Forbes, Esther
Johnny Tremain

Forester, C.S.
The African Queen
The Hornblower series

Frank, Anne
Diary of a Young Girl

Frost, Robert
Poems

Gallico, Paul
The Snow Goose

Gunther, John
Death Be Not Proud

Guthrie, A.B.
The Big Sky

Haggard, H. Rider
King Solomon's Mines

Hansberry, Lorraine
A Raisin in the Sun

Hemingway, Ernest
The Old Man and the Sea

"Summertime Favorites"
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Grades 7 and 8
(continued)

Hersey, John
A Bell for Adano
Hiroshima
The Wall

Heyerdahl, Thor
Kon-Tiki

Hilton, James
Goodbye, Mr. Chips
Lost Horizon

Hudson, W.H.
Green Mansions

Hughes, Richard
A High Wind in Jamaica

Hugo, Victor
The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Irving, Washington
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Keller, Helen
Story of My Life

Kennedy, John F.
Profiles in Courage

Kipling, Rudyard
Kim

Knowles, John
A Separate Peace

Lee, Harper
To Kill a Mockingbird

London, Jack
The Sea-Wolf

Lord, Walter
A Night to Remember

Malory, Sir Thomas
Le Morte d'Arthur

Maxwell, Gavin
Ring of Bright Water

McCullers, Carson
Member of the Wedding

Michener, James
The Bridges at Toko-Ri

Mitchell, Margaret
Gone with the Wind

Nordhoff, Charles and J.N. Hall
Mutiny on the Bounty

O'Dell, Scott
Island of the Blue Dolphins

Orczy, Baroness Emma
The Scarlet Pimpernel

Paton, Alan
Cry, the Beloved Country

Pyle, Howard
Men of Iron

Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan
The Yearling

Renault, Mary
The King Must Die

Roberts, Kenneth
Northwest Passage

Saint-Exupéry, Antoine de
The Little Prince
Wind, Sand and Stars

Saki
Stories

Schaefer, Jack
Shane

Scott, Sir Walter
Ivanhoe

Shelley, Mary
Frankenstein

Smith, Betty
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn

"Summertime Favorites"
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National Endowment for the Humanities

Grades 7 and 8
(continued)

Steinbeck, John
The Pearl
Tortilla Flat

Stevenson, Robert Louis
The Black Arrow
The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Stoker, Bram
Dracula

Thurber, James
The Thurber Carnival

Tolkien, J.R.R.
The Hobbit
The Lord of the Rings

Twain, Mark
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court
Innocents Abroad
Life on the Mississippi
The Prince and the Pauper

Verne, Jules
Around the World in Eighty Days
Journey to the Center of the Earth
Mysterious Island
20,000 Leagues under the Sea

Wallace, Lewis
Ben-Hur

Washington, Booker T.
Up from Slavery

Wells, H.G.
The Time Machine
War of the Worlds

Wharton, Edith
Ethan Frome

Wilder, Thornton
The Bridge of San Luis Rey

Wister, Owen
The Virginian

Yates, Elizabeth
Amos Fortune, Free Man

"Summertime Favorites"
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Grades 9 through 12

Agee, James
A Death in the Family

Anderson, Sherwood
Winesburg, Ohio

Austen, Jane
Emma
Northanger Abbey
Pride and Prejudice
Sense and Sensibility

Baldwin, James
Go Tell It on the Mountain

Balzac, Honoré de
Pere Goriot

Beckett, Samuel
Waiting for Godot

The Bible
Old Testament
New Testament

Bolt, Robert
A Man for All Seasons

Brontë, Charlotte
Jane Eyre

Brontë, Emily
Wuthering Heights

Browning, Robert
Poems

Buck, Pearl
The Good Earth

Butler, Samuel
The Way of All Flesh

Camus, Albert
The Plague
The Stranger

Cather, Willa
Death Comes for the Archbishop
My Antonia

Cervantes, Miguel
Don Quixote

Chaucer, Geoffrey
The Canterbury Tales

Chekhov, Anton
The Cherry Orchard

Chopin, Kate
The Awakening

Collins, Wilkie
The Moonstone

Conrad, Joseph
Heart of Darkness
Lord Jim
The Secret Sharer
Victory

Crane, Stephen
The Red Badge of Courage

Dante
The Divine Comedy

Defoe, Daniel
Moll Flanders

Dickens, Charles
Bleak House
David Copperfield
Great Expectations
Hard Times
Oliver Twist
A Tale of Two Cities

Dickinson, Emily
Poems

Dinesen, Isak
Out of Africa

Dostoevski, Fyodor
The Brothers Karamazov
Crime and Punishment

Dreiser, Theodore
An American Tragedy
Sister Carrie

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Grades 9 through 12
(continued)

Eliot, George
Adam Bede
Middlemarch
Mill on the Floss
Silas Marner

Eliot, T.S.
Murder in the Cathedral

Ellison, Ralph
Invisible Man

Emerson, Ralph Waldo
Essays

Faulkner, William
Absalom, Absalom!
As I Lay Dying
Intruder in the Dust
Light in August
The Sound and the Fury

Fielding, Henry
Joseph Andrews
Tom Jones

Fitzgerald, F. Scott
The Great Gatsby
Tender Is the Night

Flaubert, Gustave
Madame Bovary

Forster, E.M.
A Passage to India
A Room with a View

Franklin, Benjamin
The Autobiography of
Benjamin Franklin

Galsworthy, John
The Forsyte Saga

Golding, William
Lord of the Flies

Goldsmith, Oliver
She Stoops to Conquer

Graves, Robert
I, Claudius

Greene, Graham
The Heart of the Matter
The Power and the Glory

Hamilton, Edith
Mythology

Hardy, Thomas
Far From the Madding Crowd
Jude the Obscure
The Mayor of Casterbridge
The Return of the Native
Tess of the D'Urbervilles

Hawthorne, Nathaniel
The House of the Seven Gables
The Scarlet Letter

Hemingway, Ernest
A Farewell to Arms
For Whom the Bell Tolls
The Sun Also Rises

Henry, O.
Stories

Hersey, John
A Single Pebble

Hesse, Hermann
Demian
Siddhartha
Steppenwolf

Homer
The Iliad
The Odyssey

Hughes, Langston
Poems

Hugo, Victor
Les Misérables

Huxley, Aldous
Brave New World

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Grades 9 through 12
(continued)

Ibsen, Henrik
- A Doll's House
- An Enemy of the People
- Ghosts
- Hedda Gabler
- The Master Builder
- The Wild Duck

James, Henry
- The American
- Daisy Miller
- Portrait of a Lady
- The Turn of the Screw

Joyce, James
- Portrait of the Artist As a Young Man
- Dubliners

Kafka, Franz
- The Castle
- Metamorphosis
- The Trial

Keats, John
- Poems

Kerouac, Jack
- On the Road

Koestler, Arthur
- Darkness at Noon

Lawrence, D.H.
- Sons and Lovers

Lawrence, Jerome and Robert E. Lee
- Inherit the Wind

Lewis, Sinclair
- Arrowsmith
- Babbitt
- Main Street

Llewellyn, Richard
- How Green Was My Valley

Machiavelli
- The Prince

MacLeish, Archibald
- J.B.

Mann, Thomas
- Buddenbrooks
- The Magic Mountain

Marlowe, Christopher
- Dr. Faustus

Maugham, Somerset
- Of Human Bondage

McCullers, Carson
- The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter

Melville, Herman
- Billy Budd
- Moby-Dick
- Typee

Miller, Arthur
- The Crucible
- Death of a Salesman

Monsarrat, Nicholas
- The Cruel Sea

O'Neill, Eugene
- The Emperor Jones
- A Long Day's Journey into Night
- Mourning Becomes Electra

Orwell, George
- Animal Farm
- 1984

Pasternak, Boris
- Doctor Zhivago

Poe, Edgar Allan
- Short stories

Remarque, Erich
- All Quiet on the Western Front

Rolvaag, O.E.
- Giants in the Earth

Rostand, Edmond
- Cyrano de Bergerac

Salinger, J.D.
- The Catcher in the Rye

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Grades 9 through 12
(continued)

Sandburg, Carl
Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years
Abraham Lincoln: The War Years

Saroyan, William
The Human Comedy

Sayers, Dorothy
The Nine Tailors

Shakespeare, William
Plays and sonnets

Shaw, George Bernard
Arms and the Man
Major Barbara
Pygmalion
Saint Joan

Sheridan, Richard B.
The School for Scandal

Shute, Nevil
On the Beach

Sinclair, Upton
The Jungle

Sophocles
Antigone
Oedipus Rex

Steinbeck, John
East of Eden
The Grapes of Wrath
Of Mice and Men

Stowe, Harriet Beecher
Uncle Tom's Cabin

Swift, Jonathan
Gulliver's Travels

Thackeray, William M.
Vanity Fair

Thoreau, Henry David
Walden

Tolstoy, Leo
Anna Karenina
War and Peace

Trollope, Anthony
Barchester Towers

Turgenev, Ivan
Fathers and Sons

Twain, Mark
Pudd'nhead Wilson

Updike, John
Rabbit Run

Vergil
The Aeneid

Voltaire
Candide

Warren, Robert Penn
All the King's Men

Waugh, Evelyn
Brideshead Revisited
A Handful of Dust

Wharton, Edith
Age of Innocence

White, T.H.
The Once and Future King
The Sword in the Stone

Wilde, Oscar
The Importance of Being Earnest
The Picture of Dorian Gray

Wilder, Thornton
Our Town

Williams, Tennessee
The Glass Menagerie
A Streetcar Named Desire

Wolfe, Thomas
Look Homeward, Angel

"Summertime Favorites"
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Grades 9 through 12
(continued)

Woolf, Virginia
Mrs. Dalloway
To the Lighthouse

Wouk, Herman
The Caine Mutiny

Wright, Richard
Black Boy
Native Son

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